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Meeting Minutes 03/19/2007

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/19/07

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning	Carman*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Human Rights Commission members Joe Curro (Chair), Bill Shea, Nancy Rhoads, Vicki Cohen, Sheri Baron; Historic Commissions Chair Stephen Makowka

MINUTES of 3/14/07 accepted as amended. Unanimous.

ART 49 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: Curro, assisted by the other members, reviewed the history & business of the commission. He described a proposed 6 to 8 hr seminar for elected, and appointed town leaders that would increase their sensitivity to human rights issues. The goal is to reach a consensus on how to deal with these issues. They stated that this approach has been useful in Winchester & Andover. It is supported by the Town Manager & the School Superintendent. Curro requested \$3000 budget increase for FY08 based on preliminary quotes. The Commission expects to end the year with a \$561 balance. VOTED \$7500 as requested and a suggestion to the Commission that a handbook or written protocol result from the seminar. 15-2.

ART 49 HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS: Makowka requested a \$400 increase to cover the cost of the expanded districts. The Commission has not used its authority to level fees, preferring to encourage property owners to collaborate on meeting district goals. He sees this as more economical than an adversarial approach. The commission may levy a penalty of up to \$50/day for violations. Voted \$5100 as requested with a suggestion to the Commission that it consider fees for larger projects. 16-1. Kneeland to call both commissions.

.ART 49 VOTED \$2160 for the Historical Commission and \$1800 for the Recycling Committee. Unanimous

BUD 17b FIRE: Community Safety SubCom (O'Neill), using a handout, reviewed the department's status and recommended the budget as requested. There are 4 vacancies, there are no records of the number of calls since 2004, the BLS ambulance earns the town \$346k, and a budget shortfall of \$117K is predicted for FY07. The Chief wants to improve record keeping by piggybacking on the planned police record keeping software. Recent transfer of the only hazmat tech to Cambridge is an expensive loss. VOTED \$4,968,561. 16-0-1.

WATER & SEWER EF: W&S EF SubCom (Fey, Ferrara), using a detailed handout, recommended a variety of changes. Some of these changes resulted from the recent vote of the BoS to freeze the W&S debt shift to the tax rate which will increase the W&S rate by about 14%. Another change would increase the health insurance offset charged to the W&S EF by \$132k to account for retired W&S workers. The latest MWRA assessment resulted in a budget decrease of \$212k. This resulted in a net reduction in use of reserves to balance the budget. VOTED \$17,257,955. Unanimous. The SubCom to reconcile the interest & principal expenses w/ capital budget.

BUDGET SUMMARY: Tosti reviewed the one page summary for FY08 prepared by Jones. It shows a \$158k deficit and no contribution to the override stabilization fund. It includes the state aid in the governor's budget, much less than planned.

COMMITTEE: School Infrastructure 3/21, Education Budget 4/4.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$350,000-\$130,000=\$220,000

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/20/07 Revised 3/21

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Result Unlisted votes were unanimous
18	Data Processing Department Transfer	2/21	2/21	Jones to draft vote
26	Pension Funding	2/21	2/21	No action
27	Health Care Trust Funds	2/5	2/21	No action
28	Rental Receipts	3/14		
36	SPED Fund			
39	Collective Bargaining	3/14		
40	Future Collective Bargaining	3/14		
41	Positions reclassification			
42	Carbon Bank	2/5		No report
43	Energy manager	2/5,3/14		Carman – Belmont plan Howard-Vision 2020
45	Capital Budget	3/12	3/12	\$8,360,046
46	Rescind Authority to Borrow	3/12	3/12	No action
47	Minuteman Tech	3/5	3/7	\$3,276,622 12-5
48	Town Celebrations	3/14		
49	Committees & Commissions	3/14,19	3/19	\$16560
50	Miscellaneous	3/14		
51	George St Sidewalk	2/21		Need more info
52	School Facilities Working Group			
53	Sewers	3/14		
54	Water	3/14		
55	Liberty Ride	3/12		No report - BoS
56	Pension Adjustments	2/21	2/21	Favorable action
57	Transfer Retiree Health Care Funds	2/21	3/14	Favorable action
59	200 th Anniversary Committee	2/21	3/7	\$6200 13-4
61	Town & School Budgets	2/5	3/12	No action
62	Harry Barber Program	3/7	3/7	\$7,500
63	Minuteman Senior Services	3/7	3/7	\$9,818 15-2
64	Revaluation	2/21	2/21	\$325,000
65	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
66	Cemetery			
67	Overlay Reserve Surplus			
68	Stabilization Fund			
69	Free Cash			
72	W&S Health Insurance Offsets	2/5		Finances Sub to investigate

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/26	2/26	\$10,778	15-1
2	Board of Selectmen	2/26	2/26	\$343,723	
3	Tow n Manager	2/26	2/26	\$432,326	
4	Personnel	3/12	3/12	\$179,228	11-2
5	Comptroller	3/7	3/7	\$830,407	
6	Treasurer	3/5	3/5	\$552,840	13-0-1
7	Postage	3/5	3/5	\$135,160	13-0-1
8	Assessors	2/26	2/26	\$286,221	
9	Legal	2/26			
10	Tow n Clerk	2/26	2/26	\$221,957	
11	Registrar of Voters	2/26	2/26	\$61,787	15-1
12	Parking	3/5	3/5	\$90,766	13-0-1
13	Planning	2/26	2/26	\$208,782	
14	Redevelopment Board	2/26	2/26	\$480,777	
15	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/28	2/28	\$22,296	
16	Public Works				
17a	Community Safety Admin	3/7	3/7	\$343,148	
17b	Police	3/7	3/7	\$5,289,617	
17c	Fire	3/19	3/19	\$4,968,561	
17d	Support	3/12	3/12	\$633,957	
18	Inspections	3/7	3/7	\$328,342	
19	Education				
20	Library	2/26	2/28	\$1,811,090	
21	Health & Human Services				
22b	Veterans	3/12	3/12	\$223,311	
22	Retirement	2/28	2/28	\$6,706,719	
23	Insurance				
	Workmans Comp	2/28	2/28	\$490,000	
	Unemployment	2/28	2/28	\$100,000	
	Liability	2/28	2/28	\$300,000	
24	Reserve Fund	2/28	2/28	\$400,000	
W&S	Water & Sew er EF (balanced)	3/19	3/19	\$17,257,955	
Rec					

Rnk					
COA					